

The following is a MARKED version of the pending claims with all the changes shown in conventional comparison.

9. (Amended) A supporting device [in accordance with] according to Claim 8, [characterized by] wherein the foot receiving device [(1)] [consisting] consists of two [(2)] laterally reversed halves [(1a, b)].

10. (Amended) A supporting device [in accordance with] according to Claim 1, [characterized by] wherein the component [comprising] comprises a vertically arranged tube [(15)] whose outside diameter is less than or equal to the inside diameter of the inner sleeve [(8)] in at least one section.

11. (Amended) A supporting device [in accordance with] according to Claim 10, [characterized by] wherein the tube [(15) being] is a rectangular tube.

12. (Amended) A supporting device [in accordance with] according to Claim 10 [or 11], [characterized by] wherein the bearing points [(4a, b) being] are attached to the outer surface of the tube [(15)].

13. (Amended) A supporting device [in accordance with one of the previous] according to Claim[s] 1 [through 7 or 9 through 12], [characterized by] wherein the opening [(3) being] is closed off by a cover [(12)].

Thus, all the claims have now been amended to put them in better form and delete the multiple dependencies.

Respectfully submitted,

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(J 166)

2025 OCT 14 10:33:20